

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A stent comprising:
a plurality of serpentine bands;
adjacent serpentine bands being connected to one another by at least one permanent connector strut;
adjacent serpentine bands being connected to one another by at least one disengagable connector strut ~~which may be disengaged~~ that is constructed and arranged to disengage by electrolytic detachment.
2. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein said at least one disengagable connector strut is made from a material having a higher corrosion potential than a material used to form said serpentine bands.
3. (Original) The stent of claim 1, further comprising an electrical lead that is electrically coupled to the stent.
4. (Original) The stent of claim 3, wherein said electrical lead is electrically coupled to said at least one disengagable connector strut.
5. (Original) The stent of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of disengagable connector struts, wherein said electrical lead is coupled to all of the disengagable connector struts.
6. (Original) The stent of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of disengagable connector struts and a second electrical lead, wherein each electrical lead connects to at least one disengagable connector strut.
7. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is at least partially self-expanding.
8. (Original) The stent of claim 7, wherein the stent self-expands to an intermediate deployment diameter, the stent being restrained from further expansion by said at least one disengagable connector strut.
9. (Original) The stent of claim 8, wherein the stent self-expands to a full deployment diameter upon disengagement of said at least one disengagable connector strut.
10. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein said at least one disengagable connector strut further comprises a necked portion.
11. (Original) The stent of claim 10, wherein said disengagement occurs at said necked portion.

12. (Original) The stent of claim 10, wherein said at least one disengagable connector strut is connected to a serpentine band at a necked portion.

13. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein upon disengagement of said at least one disengagable connector strut, said at least one disengagable connector strut no longer transmits forces between said adjacent serpentine bands.

14. (Original) The stent of claim 1, wherein said serpentine bands further comprise a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys; wherein said at least one permanent connector strut connects at a first end to a valley of one serpentine band and connects at a second end to a peak of an adjacent serpentine band; and wherein said at least one disengagable connector strut connects at a first end to a valley of one serpentine band and connects at a second end to a peak of an adjacent serpentine band.

15-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) A stent comprising:

a cylindrical metal framework having a plurality of cells, said framework comprising a first serpentine band, a second serpentine band, a permanent connector strut connecting the first serpentine band to the second serpentine band, and a disengagable connector strut connecting the first serpentine band to the second serpentine band; wherein the number of cells decreases upon disengagement of said disengagable connector strut; and wherein the mass of the metal framework decreases upon disengagement of said disengagable connector strut.

36. (Original) The stent of claim 35, wherein cells on either side of said disengagable connector strut combine to form a single cell upon disengagement of said disengagable connector strut.

37. (Original) The stent of claim 36, wherein a portion of each cell is defined by a portion of a permanent connector strut after disengagement of said disengagable connector strut.

38. (Original) The stent of claim 35, wherein the stent is at least partially self-expanding.

39-54. (Cancelled)